

Learning English with CBC Calgary

Weekly newscast

December 14th 2012

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Objectives of the weekly newscast lesson

- to develop listening skills at the CLB 4 level
- to increase vocabulary among learners
- to increase knowledge of news stories
- to provide a self-study tool, as well as, an ESL classroom resource



www.alberta.ca

<http://www.cbc.ca/calgary/learning-english/>

News story #1

Before you listen to the first news story, complete this vocabulary activity. It will help you to understand the listening more easily.

Vocabulary

Match the words with their definitions. *Answers are in the appendix.*

Answer	Word	Definition
1.	to be fooled	a) to move from one to another
2.	apparent	b) home; place where one lives
3.	scarf	c) to act like something or someone else
4.	residence	d) a joke played on someone, meant to be funny
5.	disc jockey	e) to believe incorrect information
6.	pretend	f) to say you are sorry
7.	transfer	g) a long strip of cloth worn around the neck, covering the head
8.	apologize	h) not permitted to work for a period of time
9.	prank	i) according to the first look at evidence
10.	suspended	j) a radio broadcast announcer

Extra definitions to help you understand the reading:

Coroner's inquest: The coroner is an officer who investigates any death that is not of natural causes. Inquest is the legal investigation into an unnatural death presented before a jury.

hoax – prank; a story meant to deceive (mislead) others

tricked – to play a prank on; to fool someone into believing something that is not true

Now listen to the first news story from the audio file.

Listening activity: Multiple Choice

Choose the best answer to complete the sentences. *Answers are in the appendix.*

1. A nurse in London apparently died _____.	a) of suicide b) of pregnancy
2. Jacintha Saldanha was found hanging in her _____.	a) hospital b) residence
3. Two Australian disc-jockeys were looking for information about _____.	a) Queen Elizabeth II b) the Duchess of Cambridge
4. To get information the DJs played a prank. They pretended to be _____ and _____.	a) The Duchess of Cambridge and Prince Charles b) Prince Charles and Queen Elizabeth II
5. Jacintha Salanha _____ the call from the DJs to another nurse who gave them information.	a) tricked b) transferred
6. Although the DJs apologized for the prank, they _____.	a) have been suspended b) are still worried about the patient

Discussion Question

Do you listen to the radio? Do the disc jockeys you hear ever play pranks on people? Do you think it is okay to play pranks to make others laugh?

News story #2

Before you listen to the second news story, complete this vocabulary activity. It will help you to understand the listening more easily.

Vocabulary

Use one of the vocabulary words below to complete the sentences. *Answers are in the appendix.*

tournament (competition)

selection (try-out)

evaluations (reviews)

tradition (habit)

represent (play for)

defending (current)

hosting (holding)

1. I am _____ a Christmas party for my neighbours.
2. Only a few soccer players will ever be good enough to _____ Canada.
3. At the end of the year, we get _____ from our boss.
4. The interview is the most important part of the _____ process for the job.
5. Decorating a Christmas tree is an important family _____ for many Canadian families.
6. My son and daughter are playing in an indoor soccer _____ over the holidays.
7. Spain is the _____ World cup of soccer champions

Now listen to the second news story from the audio file.

Listening Activity: Short Answer

Read and answer the questions below. *Answers are in the appendix.*

1. What time of year do the World Junior Hockey Championships take place?
2. How many countries take part in the tournament?
3. What age are the players?
4. Where was the selection camp for Team Canada held?
5. When will the gold medal game take place?
6. Where will the tournament take place?

Discussion Question

What are some important holiday traditions you enjoy with your family? Why do people enjoy watching sporting events together?

News story #3

Before you listen to the third news story, complete this vocabulary activity. It will help you to understand the listening more easily.

Vocabulary - Read the definitions below, and then put the sentences in the correct order. *Answers are in the appendix.*

Words and Definitions
primate – a type of animal that uses a higher level of interaction
authorities – people with legal power to uphold the law, such as police
capture – to catch and keep
fined – to be charged money for disobeying the law
prohibited – not allowed
custody – legally taking care of something or someone

1. primates pets. Monkeys as have are some that people

Monkeys are primates that some people have as pets.

2. animals. It to wild is capture illegal

-
3. Smoking public is in prohibited. places strictly

-
4. in you a If fined. you be smoke will building

-
5. who the people Authorities law. can arrest break

-
6. When get divorce custody they often joint their parents of children.
-

Now listen to the third news story from the audio file.

Listening Activity: True/False

Decide whether the statements below are **true** or **false**. Write your answer in the blanks. *Answers are in the appendix.*

1. A monkey was found inside an IKEA in Toronto last weekend.
2. The owner said the primate never left her side.
3. The authorities took her pet monkey, after he let himself out of the parked car.
4. Police officers took the baby monkey to a primate sanctuary.
5. The owner, Nakhuda, was fined two hundred and fifty dollars.
6. Nakhuda wants to have custody of the baby primate she loves.

Discussion Question

Do you think people should be allowed to have primates and other wild animals as pets?

Language Focus

Adverbs of frequency

Adverbs are words that describe or give more information about verbs, adjectives and other adverbs. Adverbs of frequency tell how often (frequent) something happens.

Here is an example of an adverb of frequency from a story this week:

“...the tiny primate **rarely** left her side until he was taken by authorities...”

There are two types of frequency adverbs: definite and indefinite.

Definite adverbs tell the specific time or exactly how often something occurs.	Indefinite adverbs of frequency do not give a specific number or time. They are less clear.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">hourly, daily, weekly, monthly, yearlyevery hour, once a day, twice a week, three times a month, four times a year...once, twice, three times, four times...all the time, every chance I getonce in a blue moon (seldom) <p>Adverbs of definite frequency usually go at the end of a sentence. They may go at the beginning of a sentence for greater emphasis.</p>	<p>100% Always, constantly</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Usually, frequentlyNormally, often <p>50% Sometimes, Occasionally</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Rarely, SeldomHardly ever <p>0% Never</p> <p>Adverbs of indefinite frequency usually go in the middle of a sentence, before the main verb. If the main verb is ‘be’ the adverb should follow it.</p> <p><i>Occasionally, sometimes, often, frequently</i> and <i>usually</i> can also go at the beginning or end of a sentence:</p> <p><i>Rarely</i> and <i>seldom</i> can also go at the end of a sentence</p>

Answer the following questions using adverbs of frequency from above:

- How often do you go grocery shopping?
- How often do you listen to the radio?
- How often do you visit your friends?
- How often do you study English?
- How many times a week do you watch the news?
- How many times a year do you go to the movies?
- How often do you cook dinner for your family?

Transcripts of Weekly news stories

	DECEMBER 14 TH WEEKLY NEWS STORIES	TIME
Introduction	Hi, this is Nirmala Naidoo. You're listening to Learning English with CBC for December 14 th .	0:00
Story 1	The death of the nurse, who was fooled by a hoax call from Australian DJs about the pregnant Duchess of Cambridge, is an apparent suicide. A coroner's inquest in London has been told that Jacintha Saldanha was found hanging by a scarf in her residence. The 46-year-old nurse left three notes. Saldanha answered the phone when two Australian disc jockeys called looking for information about the Duchess of Cambridge, who was being treated for severe morning sickness. The DJs pretended to be Queen Elizabeth II and Prince Charles, and Saldanha was tricked into transferring the call to another nurse, who gave out details about the duchess' condition. The DJs apologized for the prank. They have been suspended.	0:10
Story 2	Watching the World Junior Hockey Championships on TV has become a holiday tradition for many Canadians. The hockey tournament is held every year over the holiday season. Eight countries take part in the competition. The teams are made up of players 19 years of age and under. This year, Russia is hosting the championships. A selection camp to decide which teenage boys will represent Canada was held in Calgary in mid-December. After evaluations by the coaches, twenty-three players were named to Team Canada. The World Junior Hockey Championships start on December 26th. The gold medal game will be played on Saturday, January 5th. Sweden is the defending gold medal champion. Canada finished with a bronze medal the last time the tournament was played which was right here in Alberta.	01:11
Story 3	The owner of a monkey found outside a Toronto IKEA last weekend says the tiny primate rarely left her side until he was taken by authorities and she wants him back. Yasmin Nakhuda says Darwin was near her at all times, including while she slept and showered. The baby monkey captured worldwide attention after he somehow let himself out of a parked car and walked around the store's parking lot dressed in a coat. He was eventually caught by animal control officers and moved to a primate sanctuary near Toronto. Nakhuda, who was fined \$240 for breaking the city's prohibited-animal bylaw, says she is thinking about taking legal steps to get back custody of the pet she thinks of as part of her family.	02:24

Answer keys

News story 1

Vocabulary

Answer	Word	Definition
e	1. to be fooled	a) to move from one to another
i	2. apparent	b) home; place where one lives
g	3. scarf	c) to act like something or someone else
b	4. residence	d) a joke played on someone, meant to be funny
j	5. disc jockey	e) to believe incorrect information
c	6. pretend	f) to say you are sorry
a	7. transfer	g) a long strip of cloth worn around the neck, covering the head
f	8. apologize	h) not permitted to work for a period of time
d	9. prank	i) according to the first look at evidence
h	10. suspended	j) a radio broadcast announcer

Listening

1. A nurse in London apparently died _____.	a) of suicide b) of pregnancy
2. Jacintha Saldanha was found hanging in her _____.	a) hospital b) residence
3. Two Australian disc-jockeys were looking for information about _____.	a) Queen Elizabeth II b) the Duchess of Cambridge
4. To get information the DJs played a prank. They pretended to be _____ and _____.	a) The Duchess of Cambridge and Prince Charles b) Prince Charles and Queen Elizabeth II
5. Jacintha Salanha _____ the call from the DJs to another nurse who gave them information.	a) tricked b) transferred
6. Although the DJs apologized for the prank, they _____,	a) have been suspended b) are still worried about the patient.

News story 2

Vocabulary

1. I am hosting a Christmas party for my neighbours.
2. Only a few soccer players will ever be good enough to represent Canada.
3. At the end of the year, we get evaluations from our boss.
4. The interview is the most important part of the selection process for the job.
5. Decorating a Christmas tree is an important family tradition for many Canadian families.

6. My son and daughter are playing in an indoor soccer tournament over the holidays.
7. Spain is the defending World cup of soccer champion.

Listening

1. What time of year do the World Junior Hockey Championships take place?
Over the Christmas holidays
2. How many countries take part in the tournament?
Eight
3. What age are the players?
Nineteen years old and younger
4. Where was the selection camp for Team Canada held?
Calgary
5. When will the gold medal game take place?
Saturday January 5th
6. Where will the tournament take place?
Russia

News story 3

Vocabulary

1. Monkeys are primates that some people have as pets.
2. It is illegal to capture wild animals.
3. Smoking in public places is strictly prohibited.
4. If you smoke in a building you will be fined.
5. Authorities can arrest people who break the law.
6. When parents divorce they often get joint custody of their children.

Listening

1. F A monkey was found inside an IKEA in Toronto last weekend.
2. F The owner said the primate never left her side.
3. T The authorities took her pet monkey, after he let himself out of the parked car.
4. F Police officers took the baby monkey to a primate sanctuary.
5. F The owner, Nakhuda, was fine two hundred and fifty dollars.
6. T Nakhuda wants to have custody of the baby primate she loves.